

TOWN BOARD MEETING
MAY 8th, 2023

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Board of Supervisors, Town of Florence met on the 8th day of May, 2023 with Chairman Tim Bomberg and Supervisors John Holbrook and Shane McLain present.

On a motion by McLain and seconded by Holbrook it was moved to approve the agenda as posted. All in favor, motion carried.

The minutes of the previous meetings held on April 24th and April 29th, 2023, were approved on a motion by Holbrook and seconded by McLain. All in favor, motion carried.

Marcia Krcma was in attendance to report that she attended a presentation by Professor David Clements at NWTC on "Restoring Trust In Our Elections". Krcma stated that the electronic voting machines are capable of being manipulated. Clements stated we will never have an honest election until the machines are removed from use and counties return to all paper ballots. Krcma would like to see a campaign to return to paper ballots begin in WI to eliminate the election fraud.

Krcma inquired about the 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes discussion regarding the transition from garbage sticker sales to a special charge on tax bills. Krcma expressed concern about a special charge on every taxable parcel or parcels with improvement values. Bomberg stated the decision has not been made yet and that negotiations are ongoing with Green For Life as to additional options such as reducing the collections every other week instead of weekly as a cost saving measure.

An operator license for Stacey Butler for Crafter's on Central was approved on a motion by McLain and seconded by Holbrook. All in favor, motion carried.

Kelly Sleeter, Florence County Zoning Administrator and Eric Printz, Florence County Economic Development Director were in attendance to discuss the number of buildings on Central Avenue that are not functioning or providing a service, with no intentions to open a business. Just on the 600 block of Central Avenue there are 4 buildings that are vacated. Sleeter inquired with the board if the town is interested in creating a mechanism that will require owners within a designated district such as Central Avenue to function as a business or require occupancy. Discussion was had and on a motion by Bomberg and seconded by McLain it was moved to allow Florence County to amend the County Zoning Ordinance to identify districts and require occupancy for the purpose of downtown revitalization. All in favor, motion carried.

Bomberg provided an update on the proposal from Vertical Bridge to buy out the lease agreement on the Lake Ellwood cell tower. Bomberg reported that Roger Secrist is in negotiation with Vertical Bridge using leverage that the Utility desires to have the AMI equipment on the tower. This item will be tabled until an agreement is made.

Clerk/Treasurer, Shelly VanPembrook submitted a letter she received from the Florence County Republican Party requesting that the ballot review mode function on the ICE voting machine be left on during voting. VanPembrook stated that the letter was the result of a few complaints they received from voters in Florence from the April Spring Election.

VanPembrook submitted all April bank reconciliation reports and timber cut notices received for board review and updated the board as to the progress at 600 Pewabic Street noting that the Health Department will have no authority over the property when all household refuse is removed.

VanPembrook informed the board of a Street Dance being held at the Tavern on Central on July 22nd, 2023 and requested that Cyclops Street be closed during the event from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Barricades will be provided by the town.

Town board meeting on May 8th, 2023 continued.....

VanPembrook reported that a letter was received from David & Patricia Woller requesting that a portion of Town Road K be abandoned and stated she would begin the process.

Fire Department bills totaling \$3,044.53 were approved for payment on a motion by McLain and seconded by Holbrook. All in favor, motion carried.

Monthly town bills totaling \$52,218.59 were approved on a motion by McLain and seconded by Holbrook. All in favor, motion carried.

On a motion by McLain and seconded by Holbrook it was moved to enter into Closed Session under WI SS 19.85(1)(f) – Personnel Matters- Consideration of financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or investigation of charges against specific persons that if discussed in public would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect on the reputation on any person mentioned in the histories or data or involved in such problems or investigations. Reconvene, if necessary, to take action on matters discussed in closed session. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting Aye. Ayes: Three (3). Nays: None (0) opposed. Motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned until May 5th, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the community center. All in favor, motion carried.

Submitted by:

Shelly VanPembrook
Clerk/Treasurer